Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 08947 01 OF 02 190230Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INR-10 EB-08 /043 W
----------026234 190250Z /61
R 180918Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO USICA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8032
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 08947

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BONN FOR KLIEFORTH, PARIS FOS ICA/USOECD HOFFMAN,

CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT:WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. ATMOSPHERICS: AS THIS REPORTING WEEK BEGAN, PUBLIC ATTENTION WAS ON ASSESSMENTS OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN WAKE OF PM FUKUDA'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON, BUT HAS SHIFTED STEADILY THROUGH THE WEEK TO THE NARITA COUNTDOWN. WIDESPREAD ANXIETY IS EVIDENT OVER POSSIBLE VIOLENCE BY OPPOSITION TO THE AIRPORT. ....EARLY THIS WEEK, THE NEWS MEDIA PROMINENTLY REPORTED A MOFA OPINION SURVEY, CONTRACTED TO GALLUP INTERNATIONAL, ON PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD JAPAN IN FIVE EC NATIONS. MEDIA EXPRESSED PARTICULAR DISMAY OVER SUBSTANTIAL PERCENTAGES OF RESPONDENTS WHO THINK JAPAN IS A COMMUNIST STATE OR A DICTATORSHIP AND OVER SIZEABLE NUMBERS WHO THINK JAPAN
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 08947 01 OF 02 190230Z

NOW HAS NUCLEAR ARMS (ABOUT ONE THIRD OF RESPONDENTS) OR WILL HAVE THEM IN THE FUTURE (ABOUT ONE SIXTH). MOFA ITSELF PUT MORE STRESS ON RELATIVELY HIGH NUMBERS WITH POSITIVE IMAGES ABOUT JAPAN (35 TO 50 PERCENT) AS AGAINST LESSER NUMBERS WITH NEGATIVE IMAGE (EIGHT TO 15PERCENT). DETAILS WILL BE IN SEPARATE CABLE. STORY HAS EVOKED SEVERAL PRESS EDITORIALS CALLING FOR LARGER JAPANESE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

INFORMATION EFFORT IN THE EC TO CORRECT WRONG IMPRESSIONS.
....A FEW COLUMNS AND EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED CHIDING
JAPANESE LEADERS FOR INDIFFERENCE TO THE COMING UN SPECIAL
SESSION ON DISARMAMENT; AND THE DAILY "MAINICHI" STARTED
AN INNER-PAGE SERIAL FEATURE ("ARMS COMPETITION") ON SSOD.

2. AN ICA-ARRANGED INTERVIEW OF AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD BY
THE DAILY "ASAHI" (READERSHIP ABOUT 20 MILLION) APPEARED
MAY 16 IN A FRONT-PAGE STORY UNDER THE HEADLINE THAT
AMBASSADOR DENIED SPECULATION THAT THE U.S. IS INTERESTED
INBILATERAL TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA; THE "ASAHI" PAGE-2
LEAD EXCERPTED THE INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT, WITH HEADLINES
STRESSING HIS DENIAL THAT THE U.S. IS GOING PROTECTIONIST
OR ASKING JAPAN TO BOOST ITS DEFENSE EFFORTS. USINFO WIRE
CARRIED FULL TRANSCRIPT FOR USICA.

3. TRI-NATIONAL ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM--IMPRESSIVE ASSEMBLY
OFMORE THAN)TOP-FLIGHT ECONOMISTS, BUSINESSMEN,
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES FILLED
KEIDANREN HALL TO OVER-FLOWING 5/18 TO HEARUS, GERMAN,
AND JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVES DEBATE "INTERNATIONAL
COORDINATION OF DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICIES, AND THE
CHALLENGE OF INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, GROWTH AND BALANCE
OF PAYMENTS." SYMPOSIUM, CO-SPONSOREDBY ICA, GERMAN
EMBASSY & KEIDANREN, CHAIRED BY TAKESHI WATANABE (CHAIRMAN
OF BRZEZINSKI FORMED JAPAN TRILATERAL COMMISSION) HEARD
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OPENING REMARKS BY JAPAN ECONOMIC PLANNING MINISTER
MIYAZAWA, GERMAN AMBASSADOR DIEHL, KEIDANREN PRESIDENT
DOKO, AND MINISTER SHERMAN. PRINCIPAL REPORTS WERE
DELIVERED BY FORMER CEA CHAIRMAN HERBERT STEIN, DIRECTOR
GENERAL ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY MIYAZAKI, AND FRG
ECONOMIC MINISTRY'S DEPUTY ASST. SECY. DR. BERNHARD
MOLITOR, WITH FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION BY OUTSTANDING
ECONOMISTS. SESSION WILL CONTINUE 5/19 WITH PANEL OF
EXPERTS DISCUSSING PRINCIPAL ISSUES RAISED FIRST DAY.
KEEN INTEREST SHOWN IN THIS MAJOR ECONOMIC CONFERENCE
BODES WELL FOR ITS BECOMING ANNUAL EVENT UNDER TRILATERAL
SPONSORSHIP. TAPES OF PRDCEEDINGS WILL BE FORWARDED TO
HOFFMAN/USOECD SINCE PRESENTATIONS ARE EXCELLENT UPDATE
TO LAST YEAR'S EXCHANGES ARRANGED BY ICA-TOKYO WITH
NIHON KEIZAI. EARLIER IN THE KANSAI, HERBERT STEIN
ADDRESSED A SMALL BUT HIGH-LEVEL KYOTO AUDIENCE OF
BUSINESSMEN AND ACADEMICIANS ON "INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT
AND THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM," PROVOKING IN-DEPTH
DISCUSSION ON GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY AND THE INCREASED
USG EFFORT TO FIGHT INFLATION. AMONG THE AUDIENCE WERE
BANK EXECUTIVES, ECONOMISTS FROM KYOTO UNIV.ECONOMIC
RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND A TEXTILE COMPANY PRESIDENT WHO

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

IS CONSIDERING LOCATING A PLANT IN THE U.S. DR. STEIN'S
REPUTATION BROUGHT THIS VERY INFLUENTIAL GROUP TOGETHER
FOR THE KAC PROGRAM.

4. THE PRESS OFFICE ARRANGED BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR TWO
SAILY "SANKEI" REPORTERS BY ECONOMIC OFFICER MARILYN
MEYERS ON USG POSITIONS ON ISSUES IN US-JAPAN CIVIL AIR

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 08947 02 OF 02 190242Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 TOKYO 08947

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TALKS. 5/16 EDITIONS OF "NIHON KEIZAI" AND "SANKEI"
REPORTED THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT ECONMIN BUTTON'S RECEPTION
FOR IKEDA MISSION MEMBERS THAT A MAJOR U.S.TRADE MISSION
WOULD VISIT JAPAN IN OCTOBER TO SPUR U.S. EXPORTS. THE
5/16 WEEKLY "SEKAI SHUHO" CARRIED FULL TRANSLATION OF
BRZEZINSKI'S 4/27 JAPAN SOCIETY SPEECH ON U.S. ASIAN
POLICY. FORMER AEC CHAIRMAN GLENN SEABORG MET 5/16 WITH
NINE MAJOR MEDIA JOURNALISTS AT CPAO RESIDENCE FOR ON-
THE-RECORD DISCUSSION OF U.S. ENERGY POLICY AND ALTERNATIVE
ENERGY SOURCES.

5. IN PREPARATION BOTH FOR THE UPCOMING SSODAND NEXT
WEEK'S DISARMAMENT PROGRAMS WITH MICHAEL NACHT, THE POST
DISTRIBUTED A SPECIALLY PREPARED PACKET OF POLICY

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

MATERIALS ON DISARMAMENT TO A SELECT LIST OF 60 MEDIA,
GOVERNMENT AND ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS. EARLY FEEDBACK
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INDICATES THE MATERIALS ARE HIGHLY APPRECIATED. PRESENT
PLANS CALL FOR FURTHER PREPARATION OF SUCH OCCASIONAL
PACKETS ON CURRENT ISSUES OF BILATERAL CONCERN.

6. WILFRED OWEN OF BROOKINGS INSTITUTION MADE A STRONG
ARGUMENT FOR RATIONAL PLANNING IN AN ICA-SUPPORTED PROGRAM
IN HIROSHIMA ON URBAN TRANSPORTATION. OWEN NOTED THE
THREAT OF SERIOUS URBAN CONGESTION DURING THIS CENTURY,
BUT HELD THAT PLANNED TRANSPORTATION NETWORK CAN HELP
DISPERSE POPULATIONS OVER WIDER REGIONS. THE OSAKA
AMERICAN CENTER WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE CO-SPONSORING
HIROSHIMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, JAYCEES AND COMMITTEE FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THIS SEMINAR ON "MAN AND TRANS-
PORTATION--THINKING ABOUT TOMORROW," WHICH INCLUDED OTHER
CITY PLANNERS FROM THE U.S.AND HOLLAND AND WAS WIDELY
PUBLICIZED IN THE WESTERN HONSHU EDITIONS OF "ASAHI."
THE SEMINAR HELPED STRENGTHEN OAC RELATIONS WITH HIROSHIMA
CIVIC BODIES. IT WILL BE FOLLOWED ELSEWHERE IN JAPAN BY
THREE WEEKS OF PROGRAMS ON "ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHITECTURE"
FEATURING NOTED ARCHITECT NATHANIEL OWINGS OF SKIDMORE,
OWINGS AND MERRILL.

7. AC LIBRARY MATERIALS AND SERVICES HAVE BEEN VIGOROUSLY
PROMOTED BY LIBRARY OFFICER LAGE IN A SERIES OF PROGRAMS
WITH JAPANESE LIBRARIANS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN INFORMATION
SCIENCE INCLUDING USE OF COMPUTERS AND MICROGRAPHICS.
MOST RECENTLY, A JOINT OSAKA AND KYOTO AC PROGRAM FEATURED
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS (LC) REPRESENTATIVE ANDREW KURODA AND
FORMER NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY OFFICIAL YASUMASA ODA
DESCRIBING LC'S LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPING INFORMATION
NETWORKS AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTERS IN THE U.S. THE
PROGRAM OFFERED KEY JAPANESE LIBRARIANS NEW INSIGHTS ON
LIBRARIES AS FOCI OF NATIONAL NETWORKS WITH THE MOST
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ADVANCED INFORMATION-HANDLING EQUIPMENT AS TECHNICAL
HANDMAIDENS FOR IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT
AND THE PRIVATE SECTORS OF SOCIETY. MS. LAGE IS TO DISCUSS
NEW SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES IN SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN AMERICA
ATTHE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE KANSAI CHAPTER OF THE SPECIAL
LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION NEXT WEEK.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

8. AT THE NAGOYA AND KYOTO AMERICAN CENTERS AND DOSHISHA UNIVERSITY, GEORGETOWN LITERATURE PROFESSOR RODRIGUES STARRED IN PROGRAMS ON "THE HUMANNESS OF SAUL BELLOW," STIRRING LIVELY DISCUSSION EACH TIME NOT ONLY BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE AUDIENCES BUT ALSO AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS. THE AUDIENCE REACTIONS INDICATED THESE EVENTS HAD ADVANCED OUR EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN JAPANESE UNDERSTANDING OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICA.

9. THE MAY ISSUE OF "KEIZAIJIN," MONTHLY BULLETIN OF KANKEIREN (KANSAI FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS) CARRIED THE FULL TRANSLATION OF AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD'S APRIL 5 SPEECH "CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE:US-JAPAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS." IN THE SAME ISSUE WAS A 4.5-PAGE ARTICLE PROVIDING THE GIST OF PROF.BRUCE LARKIN'S OSAKA AC PRESENTATION OF MARCH 8 ON "THE U.S.AND NORTHEAST ASIA IN THE 1970'S." FORSTER

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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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